

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying item collection previews, comprising:

a processor;

a memory accessed by and operated on by the processor;

at least one display object having metadata tags describing two or more data items in a collection collections of data items, each collection of data items being a differing application;

a control component configured to selectively animate a presentation of the collections of data items based in part on the metadata tags and detected user activities;

global controls for collecting unrelated data items in a set of the collections of data items [[to]] and subsequently preview the collections of data items; [[and]]

one or more controller inputs to control the presentation of the collections of data items, wherein a user utilizes the one or more controller inputs to navigate the collection collections of data items via selecting an item in the a collection, wherein selection of the item collection changes the order of the collection collections of data items and moves the selected item collection to the front of the collection collections of data items allowing the user to navigate the rest of the collection collections of data items in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected item collection.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller inputs include at least one of a mouse cursor control, a mouse wheel control, a voice command, an eye-gaze control, and a mechanical control to control the presentation of items.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the collection collections of data items further ~~comprising~~ comprise a top item displayed as a thumbnail preview or an expanded size preview.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a control to provide a transitional animation employed to visually link movement of an axial controller with a change in a displayed icon.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a currently selected preview image, the currently selected preview image integrated with a collection icon as a reminder of collection contents.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the control component further comprises at least one of an object locator, a command detector, a content analyzer, and a formatter to selectively animate the presentation of the items.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a graphical user interface to selectively animate the presentation of the collections of data items.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, the graphical user interface further comprising a set of preference controls configured to change, by type of item, preview visualizations and access behaviors associated therewith.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the collections of data items include one or more subcomponents configured to be previewed, selected, or displayed.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the items can be previewed in two dimensional or three dimensional form.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising controls to scale the collections of data items to be previewed.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a control to determine a rough position of the collection in a-collection the collection of items.

15. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer readable instructions stored thereon for implementing at least one of the display object and the control component of claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform steps system-configured to facilitate information preview from a collection, comprising:

means for displaying a set of information items as a stack, each set of information items being a differing application;

means for selecting the set of information items to find an approximate position of an item in the set of information items by moving a mouse cursor over the item, wherein the selection of the item changes the order of the set and moves the selected item to the front of the set;

means for allowing a user to navigate the rest of the set in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected item;

means for detecting a value with respect to the set of information items; [[and]]

means for previewing the information items based upon incrementing or decrementing the value to define a currently selected information item; and

upon moving the mouse cursor from the set of information items, integrating the currently selected information item with the remaining information items such that the selected information item is left atop the stack.

17. (Currently Amended) A method to facilitate information previews from a set of items, computer-readable storage media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform steps comprising:

selecting a stack of display items with a first control, the display items being differing applications;

cycling the stack of display items with a second control in order to provide an information preview with respect to at least one of the items;

a third control for gathering dissimilar items in a set of items to consequently preview the items;

employing the first control to find an approximate position of an item in the stack of display items, wherein selection of the item changes the order of the stack of display items and moves the selected item to the front of the stack; and

allowing a user to navigate the rest of the stack in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected item.

18. (Currently Amended) The method computer-readable storage media of claim 17, further comprising the steps of providing a transitional display for at least two display items in accordance with the second control.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method computer-readable storage media of claim 17, the information preview is associated with at least one of a display configured to be about the same size as the stack, smaller than the stack, and larger than the stack.

21. (Currently Amended) The method computer-readable storage media of claim 17, wherein the first control is associated with a cursor which is controlled by a mouse and wherein the second control is associated with a wheel of the mouse.

22. (Currently Amended) A graphical user interface computing device, comprising:

a processor;

a memory accessed by and operated on by the processor;

a graphical user interface comprising:

a display object for displaying a group of pages, the pages representing differing applications;

a tag associated with each member page from the group of pages;

a cursor to select the group of pages;

an axial controller to cycle the group of pages using the associated tags;

global controls for accumulating dissimilar items in a set of items to later preview the items; and

one or more controller inputs to control the presentation of the group of pages, wherein a user utilizes the one or more controller inputs to navigate the group of pages via selecting a member page in the group, selection of the member page changes the order of the group and moves the selected member page to the front of the group allowing the user to navigate the rest of the group in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected member page.

23. (Currently Amended) The graphical user interface computing device of claim
22, wherein the axial controller causes a transition animation between pages when
cycling the group of pages.